

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 02986

RW MESSAGE NO. 13

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON RADIO-
LOGICAL WEAPONS AND NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION,
ROUND FOUR: FIFTH PLENARY MEETING, FEBRUARY 22, 1978

REFS: A) GENEVA 1930, B) GENEVA 2527

1. SUMMARY: AT FIFTH MEETING, FEBRUARY 22, SOVIET DEL
ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ON US FEBRUARY 6 REFORMULA-
TION OF ILLUSTRATIVE ELEMENT 2 (DEFINITION) AND FINESSED
RESPONSE TO U.S. FEBRUARY 16 QUESTION AS TO REASON FOR
CHANGE IN SOVIET DEFINITION OF NON-EXPLOSIVE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS (REF B). U.S. DEL COMMENTED ON SOME OF SOVIET
QUESTIONS AND MADE STATEMENT PROPOSING FOR INCLUSION IN
ELEMENT SIX, CHALLENGE INSPECTION ARRANGEMENTS CONSISTENT
WITH THOSE PROPOSED BY THE U.S. IN CHEMICAL WEAPONS
NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIFTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE US-USSR ARMS
CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND NEW
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WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WAS HELD WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON,
FEBRUARY 22, AT SOVIET MISSION.

3. AMBASSADOR LIKHATCHEV (HEAD OF SOVIET DEL) ASKED A
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO U.S. FEBRUARY 6 REFORMU-
LATION OF ILLUSTRATIVE ELEMENT TWO (REF A). AMBASSADOR
FISHER (HEAD OF U.S. DEL) RESPONDED BRIEFLY TO TWO OF

THE SOVIET QUESTIONS. SOVIET QUESTIONS AND U.S. RESPONSES FOLLOW BELOW. REGARDING U.S. FEBRUARY 16 EXPLANATION FOR DELETING THE WORD "WEAPON" FROM ELEMENT TWO (SEE REF B), LIKHATCHEV SAID HE INTENDED TO HAVE COMMENTS AT A LATER DATE.

A. QUESTION: DO THE WORDS "OR USED" REFER ONLY TO RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS OR DO THEY ALSO REFER TO EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES?

B. QUESTION: DOESN'T U.S. REFORMULATION OF ELEMENT TWO CONTRADICT THE ELEMENT ONE OBLIGATION OF STATES NOT TO USE RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS?

RESPONSE: FISHER POINTED OUT THAT ELEMENT ONE PROHIBITED THE USE OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS WHILE ELEMENT TWO DEFINED THE TERM, "RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS" ON THE BASIS OF DESIGN OR USE OF EQUIPMENT, DEVICES OR MATERIAL TO CAUSE DESTRUCTION, DAMAGE OR INJURY.

C. QUESTION: WHY DOES THE U.S. NOW INCLUDE THE TERM "NATURAL" IN THE PHRASE "NATURAL DECAY OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL" WHEN IT HAD NOT INCLUDED IT IN THE U.S. AUGUST 29 FORMULATION?

RESPONSE: U.S. DEL DEFERRED RESPONSE TO LATER DATE.

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D. QUESTION: WHY DOESN'T THE U.S. MENTION MEANS OF DELIVERY IN ITS PROPOSED FORMULATION OF ELEMENT TWO?

RESPONSE: U.S. DEFERRED RESPONSE TO LATER DATE.

4. DURING FEBRUARY 16 MEETING, FISHER ASKED SOVIET DEL WHY SOVIETS USED IN THEIR PRESENT ARTICLE II THE FORMULATION, "WHICH ARE NOT NUCLEAR WEAPONS PERFORMING BY EXPLOSION," INSTEAD OF THEIR AUGUST FORMULATION, "OF NON-EXPLOSIVE TYPES" (REF B). LIKHATCHEV, FINESSING THE QUESTION SAID THAT THE SOVIET OCTOBER 7 FORMULATION WAS BASED ON THE 1948 UN DEFINITION. FISHER STRESSED THAT ALL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES ARE TO BE EXCLUDED.

5. FISHER MADE BRIEF STATEMENT PROPOSING THAT ELEMENT SIX BE REVISED TO INCLUDE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHALLENGE ON-SITE INSPECTION, AND DESCRIBED THOSE ARRANGEMENTS ALONG THE LINES OF RELEVANT U.S. PROPOSALS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS.

6. THE NEXT PLENARY IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28. VANDEN HEUVEL

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